

Welcome!

You're about to embark upon a wonderful journey, creating a Teddy Bear! But, I'm warning you; once you start you just might get hooked! Whether you make this as a gift or for yourself, your heart will feel more joy than you could imagine as you create a lovable teddy with your own two hands.

This pattern and instructions are for Cool Jr. a 11 inch teddy made with hand dyed mohair. The color of your bear will depend upon the "flavor" of dye that you choose. Colors will vary from shocking to pastel. Feel free to use this pattern for your own personal use. You may make bears as gifts or to give to charity organizations. Please do not use my pattern for the manufacture of teddy bears for sale.

Make sure you have all the supplies you need and read all instructions carefully before you start! If you have problems, feel free to email me at alison@eTeddys.net. I'll get back with you a.s.a.p. and try to walk you through any difficulties you may be having.

Now, let's get started!

Tool List:

5 inch fabric scissors
Permanent marker – Ultra Fine Point
Tailors Awl
5 inch doll needle
3 inch doll needle
Curved sewing needle
¼ inch nut driver
5/16 inch ratchet wrench
1/16 inch allen wrench
Stuffing tool

Supply List:

1/6 yard mohair – 1 inch long white on black backing
5" x 5" piece black Ultrasuede or wool felt
1" x 1" piece of off-white wool felt
10 packets (all one flavor) unsweetened drink mix, Kool-Aid_{tm}, Flavor-Aid_{tm} etc.
Black sewing thread
Black upholstery thread
Waxed eye floss
Polyester stuffing
Plastic pellets
Black Perle Cotton Embroidery floss – size 3
1 pair 5 mm glass eyes
2 – 1 3/8 disks
8 - 1 ½ inch disks
5 – 6/32 inch lock nuts
4 - 6/32 x ¾ inch hex bolts
1 – 1 ¼ x 1/8 inch set screw
10 – 3/8 x 3/16 inner diameter washers

Dyeing the Mohair

Hand dyeing mohair is a lot of fun! I prefer using drink mixes as a dye because they are not harmful in any way and they give you fabulous permanent colors! Put a small 1" x 1" scrap of off-white wool felt in the dye pot with the mohair for your bears tongue

1. Fill your dye pot with 12 cups of water and 2 cups of distilled, white vinegar.
2. Add eight .13 ounce packets of unsweetened drink mix in the flavor of your choice. Stir until the drink mix is completely dissolved.
3. Place your dye pot on the stove over medium heat.
4. Meanwhile, fill your sink with warm water. Add a splash of white vinegar and your mohair. Allow the mohair to soak for a few minutes swishing it around.
5. Gently wring some of the water out of the mohair then place it in the dye pot on the stove.
6. Stir the mohair in the dye bath constantly while over medium heat. Watch while the mohair fibers soak up the dye! The dyeing process is complete when the dye bath is milky white or nearly clear (about 5 minutes.)
7. Remove the mohair from the dye pot very carefully. Rinse thoroughly until the water runs clear. Gently wring out the water, and shake the mohair in the direction of the nap until the mohair all lays in the proper direction.
8. Line dry.

Marking & Cutting

1. Trace your paper pattern pieces onto pattern template material or glue them to poster board.
2. Cut out all pattern pieces and use a hole punch or awl to make a hole where markings are needed.
3. Find the nap of your mohair (the direction in which the fur lays.) To find the nap, run your hand along the fur side of the mohair. When you run your hand with the nap the fur will lay smooth. When you run your hand against the nap, you will feel that you are pushing the fur in the wrong direction. This is much the same as petting your dog or cat from tail to head instead of head to tail. Mark the direction of the nap with an arrow on the back side of your fabric. Do this very lightly with a fine permanent marker.
4. All pieces in this pattern except for the foot pads and tongue are to be cut from mohair. Trace and cut the foot pads from black Ultrasuede or felt. Cut a U-shaped piece from the dyed wool felt (no pattern piece provided.) Trace the remaining pattern pieces out on the back side of the mohair using a fine black permanent marker. Make sure that the nap of the fabric coincides with the directional arrows on your pattern pieces. Also, make sure to reverse the pattern pieces when indicated or you'll end up with two right legs instead of a left and a right!
5. Mark any placement dots very lightly! For the arms and legs, only mark 2 legs (one right & one left) and 2 arms (one right & one left) with the joint placement dots.
6. Before cutting out the bear, double check to make sure that you have traced all of the pattern pieces and that you have reversed pieces when necessary.
7. Got all the pieces traced? Now you're ready to cut. Cut out your teddy with very sharp scissors making sure to only cut the backing and not the mohair! You do this by running the bottom edge of your scissors along the backing of the fabric and taking very small snips.

Sewing Teddy

Pin the pieces together prior to basting. Use LOTS of pins! All pieces are pinned right sides together (fur sides together) tucking in any fur into the seam while pinning. All seams are sewn with a ¼ inch seam allowance. They are first sewn with a machine basting stitch, groomed, then sewn with the smallest stitch your machine can make. Grooming is the process of pulling all of the fur from the seams. This gives Teddy's a seamless appearance! A very thick needle or dog comb works well for grooming. You need to groom from both the right and wrong side of each pattern piece after they are basted, then sew again with a very small machine stitch. Below is the order in which you will put the pieces together. Make sure that you back stitch at the beginning and end of each seam by going forward a few stitches, backward a few stitches. **Remember, for each seam, pin, baste, groom, sew!**

1. Sew the darts in the 2 side head pieces.
2. Fold the U-shaped tongue piece in half and pin it at point C between your two side head pieces. The folded edge should be down or towards point B.
3. Sew the 2 side head pieces together from A to B catching your tongue piece in the seam.
4. Mark the center snout of the gusset with a pin. Line the pin up with point A of the side head pieces you just sewed. Pin the left side of the gusset, starting at the center, to the left side head piece and sew. Repeat to sew the right side of the gusset to the right side head.
5. Sew the darts in the body pieces.
6. Sew the 2 body pieces together from A to B then C to D, leaving a small neck opening at the top dart.
7. Sew 2 arm pieces together (one with a joint placement dot, one without) from A to B.
8. Mark the center of the paw pad with a pin. Line the pin up with point A of the arm seam you just sewed. Pin the left side of the paw pad to the arm starting at point A. Pin from the paw pad side. Turn the piece and sew from the arm side from A to D. Repeat to sew the right side of the paw pad into the arm.
9. Now, finish sewing the arm from C to D.
10. Repeat steps 6-8 for the other arm.
11. Sew 2 leg pieces together (one with a joint placement dot, one without) from A to B.
12. Mark the center front and back of the foot pad with a pin. Line the front center pin up with point A of the seam you sewed in step 10. Pinning from the paw side, pin the left side of the foot pad to the leg starting at point A. Line the back center pin on the paw pad up with point D on the paw pad. You should have a ¼ inch of the leg extending beyond the foot pad center marking. Turn the piece and sew from the leg side from A to D being careful not to catch the ¼ inch extension in your seam. Repeat to sew the right side of the paw pad into the leg.
13. Now, finish sewing the leg from point C to D then sew all the way around the foot pad once more.
14. Repeat steps 10-12 for the second leg.
15. Sew 2 ear pieces together from A to B, leaving open where indicated. Repeat for other ear.
16. Turn all pieces right side out.

Teddy's Head

Teddy's head is the most important part! It gives him all of his expression and character. It is also the most difficult and time consuming part to make. Take your time and he'll be the most adorable teddy ever!

1. Stuff Teddy's head firmly using a good quality polyester stuffing. I prefer Mainstays Premium Polyester Fiberfill available at Wal-Mart. Make sure to pack a lot of stuffing into the end of Teddy's nose to make embroidering his nose easier.
2. Think your done stuffing? Well stuff in a bit more! We want a really nice firm bear head!
3. Using your 3 inch needle and a long length of upholstery thread doubled; make a gathering stitch around Teddy's open neck edge. Leave both ends of your gathering stitch long and dangling.
4. Assemble the head joint. Tighten a locknut with your ratchet on one end of your set screw, put on a washer, then a 1 3/8 inch disk. Put a locknut on by hand to keep everything in place.
5. Place the head bolt with the washer and disk inside Teddy's head. The set screw with hand tightened lock nut should stick out.
6. Tighten your gathering stitch around the disk and tie it securely with a good knot.
7. Bury your threads by threading them through your 5 inch needle and pulling them through the head. Clip off any thread that comes through after burying.

Teddy's Eyes

1. Crimp the wires on your glass eyes to make a long narrow loop.
2. Decide where you would like to place Teddy's eyes and mark the location with test eyes or pins.
3. Using your awl, make a hole exactly where Teddy's eyes will be placed.
4. Cut a 30 inch length of waxed eye floss and split it into 2 pieces, making the floss 1/2 the width, maintaining the full length of the floss.
5. Thread an eye onto one length of the floss.
6. Thread both ends of the floss through your 5 inch needle.
7. Insert the needle into the eye hole you made with the awl and go right out the back of the head and remove the needle.
8. Separate the 2 ends of the eye floss and pull the eye tight. This should allow you to see the exact exit point of the needle (where you came out the back of the head.)
9. Pull the eye loose so it dangles about 2 inches from Teddy's head.
10. Thread one end of the floss through the 5 inch needle and insert it right into the exit hole you made in step 8. It is very important to go right back into the hole you came out of or you will end up with a dimple in the back of Teddy's head. Exit in the front of the head very close to the point of insertion; just a bit to the right or left of it. Remove the needle.
11. Thread the other end of eye floss through the needle and repeat step 9 exiting on the opposite side.
12. Take both ends of the floss and pull to tighten the eye. Pull hard so that the eye will depress into the head a bit. If you would like the eye to set deeper, press it with your thumb while you pull the floss tight.

13. Keeping the floss tight, tie a knot behind the eye. Bury the threads.
14. Repeat steps 5-13 with the second eye making sure the depth of both eyes is equal.

Teddy's Ears

1. Decide on ear placement by inserting 3 sewing pins into each of Teddy's ears, one in each corner and one in the center bottom. Try different positions until you find one you like. Make sure the ears are evenly placed and have a nice cup to them.
2. Use another set of pins to mark the ear placement and then remove the ears.
3. Thread your curved needle with a long length of upholstery thread. Double the thread and tie a big knot at the end.
4. Insert the needle through the ear opening and go out one of the bottom corners. Give the thread a couple of good hard tugs to make sure that the knot will hold.
5. Now, pin the ear back in place and sew it on using a ladder stitch.
6. To ladder stitch the ear in place use a curved needle. Insert the needle into the head and take a small stitch. Then go into the back of the ear, out the front and then to the back again taking a small stitch. Then back into the head, back in and out of the ear. Keep going until you have gone all the way around the back of the ear.
7. Your last stitch should be coming back out of the head. Pull the threads so the ear tightens to the head. You may want to say a little prayer that your thread does not break during this process!
8. After the ear is tightened, tie a knot and bury the threads.
9. Repeat steps 4-8 for the other ear.

Teddy's Nose

Many people have trouble with bear noses. I hope that my method will help you make a good nose on the first attempt.

1. Thread a 3 inch needle with a 24 inch strand of size 3 perle cotton embroidery floss.
2. Put the needle in the center of the bottom of the nose and come up in the left top corner of the nose.
3. Pull the floss through leaving a 8 – 10 inch long tail hanging at the bottom of the nose.
4. Now go in at the right top corner of the nose and come out where you first started.
5. Go back in the left corner, out the right corner and back in where you started again. You should now have a triangle which you will fill with horizontal stitches.
6. Starting at the top left corner of the nose, make horizontal stitches working your way down until you fill the entire triangle. Be sure to keep your stitches parallel to one another!
7. You'll probably need another piece of floss at the point in time so go ahead and bury whatever you have left and get another long piece of embroidery floss.
8. Start again going in at the very spot you started. Leave another long tail. Go out though the right upper corner this time and make horizontal stitches again working your way down. This will straighten out the snout as it usually gets a bit skewed to one side when making the horizontal stitches.

9. When you have stitched the nose horizontally in both directions, stitch a very neat layer of vertical stitches over them starting at the center and working out in either direction. Bury the remaining floss when you have finished your vertical stitching.
10. Now experiment with your two long tails you left at the base of the nose to make your mouth. You can wrap the embroidery floss around to pins and stick them in various places to see what Teddy's mouth will look like in different positions. Once you decide where you would like them, just use your long 5 inch needle and bury the floss into the head to form your mouth.

Assembling Teddy's Body

1. Loosen the locknut at the end of Teddy's head joint.
2. Fit the set screw into the top of the body where you left the small neck opening.
3. Place a 1 3/8 inch disk on the set screw through the body, then a washer. Now, re-attach the lock nut.
4. Place your 5/16 ratchet wrench around the lock nut. Place the small allen wrench in the hole of the set screw to hold it in place while you tighten the head joint.
5. Tighten the lock nut all the way then back it off 1/2 of a turn. Test the head joint. It should be hard to turn. If you can't turn it at all, back the nut off another 1/2 turn.

Assembling Teddy's Arms

1. On the inner side of both arms you should have a light marking where the joint should go. Using your awl, make a hole in that spot.
2. Assemble the arm joint with a bolt, washer & 1 1/2 inch disk. Put this through the arm opening and fit the bolt through the hole.
3. Make a hole with your awl in the body where your arm placement is marked.
4. Fit the bolt of the arm through the body hole.
5. Now, add a 1 1/2 inch disk, washer and locknut.
6. Tighten the joint using your ratchet in the body and holding the bolt head with your 1/4 inch nut driver in the arm. Tighten all the way then back the nut off 1/2 of a turn. Check the joint as you did with head.
7. Repeat for the other arm.

Assembling Teddy's Legs

1. Follow the instructions for assembling the arms.

Stuffing Teddy

1. Stuff the arms and legs of Teddy firmly.
2. Close all stuffing holes with a ladder stitch.
3. Get a long length of upholstery thread. Thread your curved needle, double it and make a good knot.
4. Enter through the back side of the top of your stuffing hole. Pull the thread through almost all the way and then place your needle between the two threads, right in front of the knot.

5. Now pull the thread all the way, the knot should be on the inside of Teddy.
6. To close the stuffing openings, use a ladder stitch with a curved needle. Enter on the right side of the stuffing hole. Make a small stitch and go over to the left side of the stuffing hole. Make a small stitch. **DO NOT KEEP YOUR STITCHES PARALLEL!!!** Most bear making books and pattern instructions tell you to keep the stitches parallel. If you do, you will have a puckered closing. Instead, zig and zag a bit, keeping your zig even with your zag. This will keep your closing nice and smooth. Using the ladder stitch, go back and forth until the entire hole is stitched. Pull the thread to close the seam. Be sure to pull in the direction of the seam to prevent damage to the fabric. Tie a knot and bury the thread.
7. Stuff Teddy's belly, stuffing the neck and shoulder area firmly.
8. Stuff the belly portion softly alternating stuffing with poly pellets. I like to use Mainstays Cluster Stuff available at Wal-Mart for the belly portion on my bears.
9. Close Teddy's body as you did the arms and legs.

Give Teddy a big hug!

